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3 December 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: New Prisoner of War Task Force

1. As outlined in the attached Memorandum for the Record, the Department of Defense is apparently setting up a new flag/general officer level task force on the prisoner of war problem to improve the coordination and exploitation of POW intelligence at the Washington end. You are probably going to receive a communication from either General Bennett or Admiral Moorer explaining this and requesting that my deputy, [redacted] be assigned as the Agency representative on this task force.

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2. Jack is, in fact, a logical and excellent choice. Shortly after he came on board, I asked him to take the prisoner account in hand and familiarize himself with everything the Agency is doing related thereto and everything that was being done by our military colleagues. He has gone to work with quiet efficiency and discovered what I suspected to be the case, namely that there is a lot of activity, some of it so highly compartmented that almost no one has had any gestalt appreciation of the whole. Defense has a real problem because they have various groups working in almost complete ignorance of each other's existence and with minimal coordination of their respective efforts. Those responsible for supervising [redacted] [redacted] for example, act quite apart from those tasked with developing [redacted] intended to track POW's [redacted] Once we feel we have the entire problem cased, I will give you a detailed briefing with some suggestions for corrective action that will improve the effectiveness of the U.S. Government's efforts in this sphere.

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3. Since Jack is already well along in his assigned responsibility of becoming the most knowledgeable Agency referent on this issue, he

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would be the best choice to serve as our representative in Defense's long overdue creation of a true oversight committee set up at a level permitting it to get something done.



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George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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